
New bird records for Botswana and additional information on some rarities

Stephanie J. Tyler^a, Richard D. Randall^b and Chris A. Brewster^c

Nouvelles données sur les oiseaux du Botswana et informations supplémentaires sur certaines espèces occasionnelles. Une mise à jour est présentée des données rassemblées entre 1980 et 1990, publiées en 1994 par Huw Penry dans son *Bird Atlas of Botswana*. Des détails sont fournis sur plus de 30 espèces considérées comme probables pour le pays par Penry et qui par la suite ont été acceptées sur la liste des oiseaux du Botswana. Des informations supplémentaires sont également présentées sur 46 espèces considérées comme extrêmement rares en 1994, dont certaines ont depuis été observées assez régulièrement. Les contradictions entre les informations publiées dans la dernière édition de *Roberts Birds of Southern Africa* (2005) et celles recueillies par le Sous-comité d'Homologation de BirdLife Botswana sont signalées. Les ornithologues visitant le pays sont invités à envoyer leurs observations d'espèces peu communes, ainsi qu'une description des espèces observées moins de dix fois, au sous-comité ou de les mettre sur World Tickbird.

Summary. We update information gathered between 1980 and 1990 and published in Huw Penry's 1994 *Bird Atlas of Botswana*, by providing details of over 30 species that Penry considered as likely to occur in the country, which subsequently have been accepted onto the Botswana list. We also present additional information on 46 species considered extreme rarities in 1994, some of which have been recorded quite regularly since. Discrepancies between information published in the latest edition of *Roberts Birds of Southern Africa* (2005) and information held by the Records Subcommittee of BirdLife Botswana are highlighted. A plea is made for visiting bird-watchers to submit records of all scarce species and also descriptions of those rarities recorded fewer than ten times, to the Subcommittee or enter them on World Tickbird.

The diverse habitats in Botswana boast a wide range of bird species, although the country lacks high mountains or a coastline. Some 587 species are currently accepted as occurring in Botswana (at November 2006). Although boasting no endemic species, it does possess the largest single-country populations of Wattled Crane *Bugeranus carunculatus* and Slaty Egret *Egretta vinaceigula*, six colonies of which were found in 2006. Botswana is also one of the best places in Africa to find sought-after birds such as White-backed Night Heron *Gorsachius leuconotus* and Pel's Fishing Owl *Scotopelia peli*, as well as a range of raptors and Kalahari 'specials'. Vulture and eagle populations have fared better in Botswana than in South Africa or Namibia, because few farmers put out poison baits. The large mammal populations in the protected areas also result in an abundance of food for scavengers.

The avifauna of Botswana is relatively well known due to an atlas project in 1980–90 organised by Huw Penry. The aim was to establish the distribution and status of common birds, as well as to establish which species occurred in Botswana.

Penry (1994) subsequently produced the *Bird Atlas of Botswana* with distribution maps based on 30' × 30' squares, and giving the status of 495 species in the country. He also presented two appendices. Appendix A listed 59 rare species seen fewer than ten times and in no more than four squares; unfortunately some records lack supporting details and have thus been discounted (see below). Appendix B listed a further 37 species predicted to occur in Botswana, but for which until 1990 there had been no confirmed sightings.

Since the early 1990s many new species have been reported and some accepted by the Records Subcommittee of BirdLife Botswana (BLB). A remarkable number of the new records have come from the Kasane and Kazungula area, along the Chobe River in north-east Botswana. Since publication of the Atlas, knowledge of status and distribution in general has increased substantially, whilst new species, in some cases new to both Appendices, have been accepted onto the Botswana list. Some data on new and poorly known species and range expansions since Penry (1994) were published in *The Atlas of Southern*

African Birds (Harrison *et al.* 1997) or in the bi-annual journal, *Babbler*, of BLB. All accepted records of rarities are listed in the regular reports of the Records Subcommittee in *Babbler*.

This paper details the new species and provides additional information on some rarities, to assist resident and visiting birdwatchers in assessing the importance of their records and to encourage them to submit details to BLB. Visitors, including tour groups, can make a huge contribution by passing their records to BLB. Sadly, for many species that the Records Subcommittee learns about on the 'grapevine', no or insufficient details are submitted, resulting in the rejection of the records. We urge all visitors, especially visiting South Africans, to report their sightings, using World Birds Botswana Tickbird. The list of Category A Rarities is available on BLB's website (www.birdlifebotswana.org.bw). A full description is required to validate any sighting of a species on this list. We also welcome data on Category B species. These include Red Data species and those whose distribution or status is poorly understood.

Regular reports on rarities in Botswana have, unfortunately, been overlooked by the editors and authors of the latest edition of *Roberts Birds of Southern Africa* (Hockey *et al.* 2005), thus rarity records (and other information, e.g. the regular presence of African Finfoot *Podica senegalensis* on the Marico River: Tyler & Tyler 1996, Tyler 1998) in Botswana were largely omitted from this important volume.

Habitats

The habitats of Botswana and its Important Bird Areas (IBAs) were described by Tyler & Bishop (1988). Most of the country lies on the Kalahari sands and is covered in low bush or *Acacia* savanna, but there are open sand dunes and many fossil valleys and pans that only occasionally hold water, as during the exceptionally wet summer of 1999/2000. Some of the semi-deserts of central Botswana are protected by the large Central Kalahari Game Reserve, adjoined by Khutse Game Reserve to the south, whilst large areas of dunes and pans, and the Nossob Valley, lie within the Kgalakgadi Transfrontier Park (KTP) in the south-west. Both areas are IBAs. In the east lie a series of sandstone, granite or gabbro hills and kopjes, comprising the Eastern Hardveld. These hills include Kgale Hill and Modipe Hill near

Gaborone, the hills around Lobatse to the south and Mannyelanong Hill near Otse, an IBA because of its colony of Cape Griffon Vultures *Gyps coprotheres*. Further north are the Shoshong Hills near Mahalapye, the Tswapong Hills near Palapye with small permanent rocky streams and another colony of Cape Vultures, and a series of rocky outcrops around Francistown as far as the Zimbabwe border.

The vast salt pans of the Makgadikgadi system, another IBA, are important for their colonies of Greater *Phoenicopterus ruber* and Lesser Flamingos *Phoeniconaias minor* and Great White Pelicans *Pelecanus onocrotalus*, as well as breeding Chestnut-banded Plovers *Charadrius pallidus* and, in the austral summer, for many thousands of Palearctic migrant waders. In the north are the permanent and seasonal swamps, rivers, floodplains, pans and lagoons of the Okavango Delta with their large waterbird populations. The delta connects with Lake Ngami to the south-west which fills erratically. In the north-east are the Chobe River and its floodplain, and the Linyanti system. Here there are also important woodlands dominated by Zambezi Teak *Baikiaea plurijuga* and Wild Teak *Pterocarpus angolensis*, with a range of other trees and bushes including *Brachystegia* and *Commiphora*. Some of these lie within Chobe National Park or Chobe and adjacent Forest Reserves but they are not immune from fire damage and from African Elephants *Loxodonta africana*. This north-east corner of Botswana is a meeting point for many different biomes—miombo woodland, the moist forests of the KwaZulu Natal coast extending up the Zambezi Valley and the Kalahari sands. In consequence it is the richest area of Botswana for birds.

In addition to natural wetlands, many of which are ephemeral, there are many man-made reservoirs, mainly built since the 1960s. Amongst the most important for birds are Bokaa Dam north of Gaborone, Mogobane Dam south of the capital, Shashe Dam near Francistown and the relatively new Letsibogo Dam near Selebi Phikwe. New dams continue to be constructed, such as Ntimbale Dam near Francistown. As well as these artificial freshwater habitats, there are extensive sewage ponds associated with major settlements. These have a great attraction for waterbirds, and various rarities have appeared at Phakalane and Tsholofelo sewage ponds near Gaborone, whilst

other sewage ponds, at Maun, Kasane and Francistown, have also produced interesting records. Many sewage ponds are regularly counted, as are several dams and natural wetlands, during the African Waterbird Census in midsummer and midwinter.

Some 17% of Botswana is protected by national parks or game reserves with adjacent areas designated as Wildlife Management Areas. The main threats to birds and other wildlife come from increasing human settlements and encroachment, with resulting deforestation and clearance of *Acacia* for crop production. Clearance of bush though can be beneficial to some open-country species. Domestic livestock, especially cattle, cause extensive over-grazing, whilst veterinary fences, erected to control the spread of diseases, have had devastating effects on the movements of large mammals. Their effect on birds may be localised; they cause, for example, deaths amongst young flamingos in the Makgadikgadi system. Declines in raptor populations due to poisoning, direct persecution or loss of disturbance-free breeding sites are of particular concern. Other threats come from the wild bird trade, the killing of birds for 'muti' (traditional medicine) and from the mass controls of Red-billed Quelea *Quelea quelea* using poison sprays and explosions.

First accepted records

Species marked with an asterisk were listed in Penry's (1994) Appendix B as likely to occur. Site coordinates and their 15' × 15' squares (or 30' × 30' squares) used in Atlas recording are presented in Appendix 1.

Long-legged Buzzard *Buteo rufinus**

First accepted record: one near Kasane on 2 February 1995, seen by RDR (Brewster & Major 1998a). Claims of singles, at Maun on 4 March 1991 and Nxai Pan on 19 February 2001, were not accepted. One at Lake Ngami on 4 December 2005 is currently under consideration.

Augur Buzzard *Buteo augur**

First accepted record: an adult by the Motloutse River, at Talana Farms, on 5 November 2004, seen by N. Beck (Brewster 2007a). An unsubstantiated claim from the Tsodilo Hills (on 6 August 1981) mentioned by Penry (1994).

Crested Guineafowl *Guttera pucherani*

First accepted record: four at Mowana Lodge, Kasane, on 14 November 2000, seen by M. Muller and RDR (Brewster & Major 2003).

Buff-spotted Flufftail *Sarothrura elegans**

Penry (1994) noted that there was suitable habitat for this flufftail to use on passage, but that no claims had been made. A flufftail, subsequently identified as an adult male Buff-spotted Flufftail, was killed by a domestic cat near Matlapaneng Bridge in Maun in mid-December 1991 (Oake & Herremans 1992). A male was photographed at Sunday Pan, in the Central Kalahari Game Reserve, on 21 April 1995, and was observed over the following three days until found dead on 24 April (Crous & Tebele 1995).

Striped Crake *Aenigmatolimnas marginalis**

First accepted record: one at Xaxaba, in the Okavango Delta, on 13 May 1989 (RDR). Other records prior to 1999/2000 in the Okavango Delta were unsubstantiated. However, the species has been shown (by M. Muller and RDR) to be a widespread summer-breeding migrant in northern Botswana, present in large numbers in some wet years (see Muller 2000). It occurs beside rivers, at seasonal pans and in marshes in the Okavango Delta, Chobe floodplain and at large pans on the border with Zimbabwe, such as Kazuma. One was found at Mmabarwa Pan, eastern Botswana, on 3 and 10 January 1998 (Brewster 2000a) and one at Talana Marsh on 9 April 2000 (Brewster & Major 2001b), with one heard at an ephemeral pan near Mawana Gate, north of Maun (1923A2), on 8 December 2001, by M. Muller and RDR (Brewster & Major 2005), and others reported in the Maun area in March 2006 (M. Muller).

Greater Sand Plover *Charadrius leschenaultii*

One photographed on the Nata River, close to the Nata Delta at Makgadikgadi Pans, on 12 August 2005 (R. Hearn and SJT). Two at the same site two days later (CAB).

Pacific Golden Plover *Pluvialis fulva* / American Golden Plover *P. dominica*

One reported at roadside pans 60 km west of Nata (2025B) on 16 April 1997, by P. Madden (Brewster & Major 1998b).

Spur-winged Lapwing *Vanellus spinosus*

One at the edge of the swamp between Kavimba and Katchikau, on the Chobe floodplain (1824B1), on 26 July 1989 (Aspinwall 1989). There are several unsubstantiated claims from the Chobe River, between Ngoma Bridge and Kavimba, but these were not formally submitted.

Greater Yellowlegs *Tringa melanoleuca*

First (and only) accepted record: one along the Majale River (2229A1), Mashatu Game Reserve, in the Tuli Block of eastern Botswana, on 17 April 2000, by D. Solomon (Brewster & Major 2002a).

Red-necked Phalarope *Phalaropus lobatus*

One on the Chobe River near Kasane on 13 October 1998, seen by V. Hesse (Brewster & Major 2000a).

Long-tailed Skua *Stercorarius longicaudus*

An adult photographed at Kasane on 18 May 1993 by RDR (Bishop & Brewster 1997).

European Turtle Dove *Streptopelia turtur*

One with three Cape Turtle Doves *S. capicola* near North Gate, Moremi Game Reserve, in the Okavango Delta, on 7 June 2002, reported by T. Wood (Wood 2002, Brewster & Major 2003).

Rosy-faced Lovebird *Agapornis roseicollis**

First accepted record: five roosting in a Sociable Weaver *Philetairus socius* nest west of Swart Pan (2420A1), in the Nossob Valley in south-west Botswana, seen by CAB (Brewster & Major 2003, Brewster 2004). Prior to this, birds had been observed on the South African side of the Nossob River in KTP. Other records from east and south-east Botswana, such as one on 11 March 1995 in 2226B, have been assumed to be escapes.

Purple-crested Turaco *Tauraco porphyreolophus*

First accepted record: one in Kasane Forest Reserve on 17 January 1999, seen by M. & S. Muller. Probably the same bird was seen at Mowana Lodge, by the Chobe River at Kasane, on 22 May 1999, by RDR (Brewster & Major 2000b).

Bradfield's Swift *Apus bradfieldi**

First accepted record: a flock of 400 in the Molopo Valley, south-west Botswana (2621C2/D1), on 18

April 1998, seen by CAB (Brewster & Major 1999, Brewster 2000b).

Crowned Hornbill *Tockus alboterminatus**

First accepted record: two photographed at Thebe River safari base, in Kasane, on 13–14 October 2004, by RDR, K. Oake and H. Oake (Randall 2006b). A record from the Kasane area on 30 July 1990 was not accepted. Occurs in the mid Zambezi Valley, leading Penry (1994) to suggest that it might occur in northern Botswana.

Olive Woodpecker *Mesopicos griseocephalus**

First accepted record: an adult female and a subadult near Mowana Lodge, Kasane, on 15 November 2003, seen by A. Riley (Brewster 2007a).

Melodious Lark *Mirafra cheniana**

First accepted record: one in the Pitsane area, south-east Botswana, on 23 January 1988 (Hunter 1989b). Other records: three displaying at Ramatlabama, also in south-east Botswana, near the South African border, on 24 December 2000, by A. Hester *et al.* (Brewster & Major 2002a); one at Tlharaselele, south-east Botswana, on 11 January 2006; and eight at Pitsane on 11 March 2006, by CAB (Brewster 2007b). Other claims have all been disproved.

Black-eared Sparrow Lark *Eremopterix australis**

Early records were mentioned by Maclean (1970), but eight adult males north of Bokspits (2620D3) on 14 April 1998, by CAB, was the first record since 1964 (Brewster & Major 1998b). The second record involved flocks numbering tens to hundreds in duneveld in southern KTP (2620B and 2620D), in February–March 1999, by P. Funston and E. Hermann (Brewster & Major 2001a).

Angola Swallow *Hirundo angolensis**

First accepted record: four at the Kwando River (1823A2) on 29 September 2004, by RDR (Brewster 2007a). A claim at Kazungula on 18 December 2004 was rejected. Penry (1994) mentioned a record from the Caprivi and others from the Okavango and Cunene rivers, in south and west Angola, and suggested the species might occur as a vagrant in northern Botswana.

Mountain (Long-tailed) Wagtail *Motacilla clara*
One seen on the Photo-Photo River, near Old Palapye in the Tswapong Hills of eastern Botswana, on 14 May and 3 June 2000, by R. Lovett and G. Brina (Brina 2001, Lovett 2001, Brewster & Major 2002a). This prompted RDR to submit an earlier record, from nearby Moremi Gorge, also in the Tswapong Hills, on 7 December 1997 (Randall 2003a, Brewster & Major 2005). Streams in the Tswapong Hills are permanent, but as yet it is unclear whether the wagtails are visitors from nearby South Africa or comprise a small resident population.

Woodland Pipit *Anthus nyassae*
Recorded 35 km west of Mohembo, in north-west Botswana, on 27 December 1998 (Brewster & Major 2000b), at Nogatsaa and the Chobe National Park boundary (1825A1) on 5 January 2002, by CAB (Brewster & Major 2003), and at Ngwahla on 15 April 2003 (Brewster & Major 2005).

Cape Robin Chat *Cossypha caffra**
A dead bird was found just 100 m from Botswana territory at the Tlokweg to Hkopfonteinhek border post, east of Gaborone, in 1992 (Herremans 1992). The first Botswana record involved one seen in a Gaborone garden on 13 April–8 May 1992 by H. Wall (Wall 1992, Penry 1994). Two other claims from gardens around Gaborone the same year were unsubstantiated. The second and third records were of birds seen at Borotsi, 5 km east of Sefhare, eastern Botswana, in June and August 1992, and in 1994, by CAB (Brewster 1992, Bishop & Brewster 1997).

Red-capped Robin Chat (Natal Robin) *Cossypha natalensis*
The only record is of one seen at Kasane on 30 November 1996 by RDR (Bishop & Brewster 1997). In Zambia, not far north of Kasane, the species is common in any thicket.

Collared Palm Thrush *Cichladusa arquata**
First recorded at Mowana Lodge, by the Chobe River at Kasane, where two, observed in October–December 1994 by RDR, subsequently bred successfully (Bishop 1995) and the species is now a breeding resident there (e.g. Randall

1996b). The second record was from Jedibe Island camp, in the northern Okavango, where one was seen on 26 October 1996 and 19 December 1997 by H. Oake, G. McAllister *et al.* (Brewster & Major 1998a). Also recorded elsewhere, notably in the Linyanti system (1823C/D), from Selinda Spillway on 20 September 2002 and Zibalianja Camp on 21 September 2002, by B. Rode (Brewster & Major 2005), and more recently (B. Rode pers. comm.), as well as in the adjacent Selinda Concession, by C. Roche (Roche 2003, Roche & Nels 2006). One was at Xigera Camp, in the Okavango Delta, in July 2006, where it has been previously reported between June 2002 and August 2004 and again in December 2005 (Luck 2006). It was found in *Hyphaene* palms at Nata, c.300 km south of Kasane, on 18 November 2004, by RDR (Brewster 2006), a major extension of its range away from the northern wetlands.

European Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus scirpaceus**
In suggesting that the species could appear in northern Botswana, Penry (1994) referred to a record in northern Namibia. However, he overlooked a specimen from Four Rivers Camp in the Okavango Delta, taken on 9 December 1975, which is the first country record. Seven were caught at the Boteti River, near Chanoga, in late December 1987 to mid-January 1988 (Van den Brink & Loske 1990). Singles were trapped at Serondella, on the Chobe River west of Kasane, in March 1992 (Herremans & Herremans-Tonnoeyr 1992) and at Phakalane Sewage Ponds, Gaborone, on 22 November 1992, 23 November and 28 November 1992, by M. Herremans; and at Seleka Farm, on the Limpopo River, on 7 April 1996, by CAB (Bishop & Brewster 1997). Subsequently, more than 100 were mist-netted at Phakalane Sewage Ponds and several at Shashe Dam, eastern Botswana, by Tyler & Tyler (1997) and Tyler (2001b), demonstrating this Palearctic migrant to be frequent in south-east and eastern Botswana, and in the northern wetlands.

Basra Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus griseldis*
One trapped at Phakalane Sewage Ponds, near Gaborone, on 28 January 1997, by SJT, L. Tyler and J. M. S. Lewis. It was ringed, weighed and measured, and its wing formula recorded (Tyler *et al.* 1997, Brewster & Major 1998b).

African (Dark-capped) Yellow Warbler

Chloropeta natalensis

First (and only) accepted record: one at Phakalane Sewage Ponds, near Gaborone, on 17 July 1995, seen by D. Bishop (Bishop & Brewster 1997). This bird was some distance from the species' range in eastern South Africa and Zimbabwe.

Cloud Cisticola *Cisticola textrix*

First accepted record: one heard singing at Tlharaselele, in the Pitsane grasslands of south-easternmost Botswana, on 11 January 2006, by CAB. Three singing in 2525B3 near Pitsane on 11 March 2006 (Brewster 2007b).

Spotted Creeper *Salpornis spilonotus*

First accepted record: one seen at Kasane on 25 June 1994, by RDR (Randall 1994, Bishop & Brewster 1997).

White-naped Raven *Corvus albicollis**

First accepted record: one being mobbed by Pied Crows *C. albus* in Francistown in September 1999, reported by H. Williamson (Brewster 2007a). A 1993 record from 2227D was not substantiated, but the species was considered by Penry (1994) as likely to occur in eastern Botswana, close to the hills of south-west Zimbabwe.

Northern Grey-headed Sparrow *Passer griseus*

First accepted record: six at Kazungula on 14 October 2004, photographed by RDR and K. Oake (Randall 2006a, Brewster 2007a).

Pied Mannikin *Spermestes fringilloides*

First accepted record: three adults near Kabulabula lagoon in the Chobe floodplain west of Kasane, on 1 March 1994, seen by M. Herremans and D. Herremans-Tonnoeyr (Bishop 1995).

Black-headed Canary *Alario alario**

First accepted record: a flock at Kweyane in 1982–83, seen by R. White (Hunter 1990).

Rare species

These species were included in Penry's (1994) Appendix A. Totals in parentheses after each species reflect the number of accepted records.

Garganey *Anas querquedula* (4)

Four records mentioned by Penry (1994), two of which have been accepted: one at Lobatse, south-east Botswana (undated: Smithers 1964) and two at Jwaneng on 29 November 1981, by H. Penry (Bushell & Bushell 1988, Penry 1994). Two more records have been accepted: one on the Boteti River, between Samedupi and Chanoga (2023B1), on 8 January 2003, seen by SJT, J. O. Stratford and R. Hawker (Tyler 2003, Brewster & Major 2005) and a pair on the Khwai River on 25 March 2004 (Cameron 2005, Brewster 2006). Two claims from Gaborone, in February 1975 and February 1985 (Penry 1994), lack supporting evidence and have been excluded. There are unconfirmed reports from north of the Khwai River in 2001, Lake Ngami in early 2005 and 2006, and Poacher's Pan, Savuti, Chobe National Park, in 1996 (G. Reed pers. comm.).

European Honey Buzzard *Pernis apivorus* (12)

Five records mentioned by Penry (1994) but without supporting details. First accepted record: one in Molepolole River gorge on 3 November 1991, by M. Herremans; the same observer saw one at the Kolobeng River (2425D) on 14 November 1991 and another in the Tswapong Hills on 13 February 1992 (Herremans *et al.* 1993). Subsequent records include: singles at Kasane on 5 March 1989, by M. Rahder, and on 8 November 1993, by N. Hunter (Bishop 1995); south of Francistown (2127A) on 26 January 1994 by R. Bijlsma; at Shakawe on 1 March 1998, by D. Pritchard (Brewster & Major 1998b); and at Sukses, on the Limpopo, on 10 February 1996, by CAB (Bishop & Brewster 1997). In the last decade birds have also been reported near Kasane, on 4 March 2001, by F. Peacock (Brewster & Major 2002a); Sefophe, eastern Botswana, on 17 February 2002 (Brewster & Major 2003a); an adult in riverine woodland by the Limpopo at Winteroord on 9 March 2003 (Brewster & Major 2005); and another in the Kopong Hills near Gaborone on 5 March 2006 (CAB). Records from Maun (Hawker 2003, Randall 2003b) have yet to be accepted.

Egyptian Vulture *Neophron percnopterus* (4)

Two substantiated records from northern Botswana, in December 1976 and January 1990 (cf. Hunter 1992) given by Penry (1994). Also

accepted: one in Khutse Game Reserve on 14 May 1994, reported by S. Major (Bishop & Brewster 1997), and one at Shashe, in eastern Botswana, on 22 March 1998, by M. Toland (Brewster & Major 1998b). Several more recent records are currently being considered.

Black Harrier *Circus maurus* (5)

Five old records from south-west Botswana listed by Penry (1994), amongst them two from the 1980s (singles in 1985 and in 1989), of which only one was substantiated. Recent accepted records are all from the environs of KTP, in south-west Botswana, as follows: an adult at Polentswa Pan on 31 March 1999, by SJT *et al.* (Brewster & Major 2000a); at least ten sightings of single adults in the Nossob Valley and dunes in KTP in 1999, by P. Funston and E. Forsyth (Brewster & Major 2001a); one in the Nossob Valley north of Kij Kij waterhole (2620B2) on 24 March 2001 (Brewster & Major 2002b); and one 60 km east of Nossob Camp on 17 April 2002 (Brewster & Major 2003a).

Western Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus* (20)

Three records listed by Penry (1994), including one substantiated, at Kgoro Pan on 23 January 1988, by N. Hunter and H. Penry. The others involved singles in 1725C on 2 December 1988, seen by N. Hunter, and at Lake Ngami on 19 November 1989, by W. Tarboton and H. Penry. Herremans *et al.* (1993b) listed five accepted records, including that in January 1988; the others being two seen at Nata Delta on 26 December 1988 by J. Auburn; an immature at Lake Ngami on 17 December 1989 by T. Volpers, and an adult female and subadult male seen, respectively at Nata River on 10 February 1992 and Nogatsaa in Chobe National Park on 6 March 1992 by M. Herremans and D. Herremans-Tonnoeyr. Additional records are as follows: one at Tsholofelo sewage ponds, Gaborone, on 8 December 1990, by S. E. Petersen; three different birds at Lerala, eastern Botswana, on 3 February 1991, 9 and 30 March 1991, by CAB; an immature at Nata Delta on 7 April 1991, by R. M. Borello & W. D. Borello (Hunter 1992); singles on the Chobe floodplain in October and December 1992, by RDR, and at Nata Sanctuary in December 1996 and January 1997, by D. Hoddinott; two at Selebi Phikwe in November 1998–February 1999, by D.

Philip; one at Talana on 17 January 1999, by CAB; one at Gaborone Dam on 17 March 1999, by I. Draycott; one at Phakalane Sewage Ponds on 27 December 2001, by D. Pritchard; and two at Nata Delta in January 2007 (RDR, M. Muller *et al.*).

Corn Crake *Crex crex* (8)

Four specimens from north and east Botswana detailed by Smithers (1964) and two records, from 1980 and 1982, given by Penry (1994) but without supporting details. The first accepted sight records were singles flushed from damp grassland near Qaaxhwa Lediba on 12 December 1996, by SJT (Brewster & Major 1998a) and at Mombo in the Okavango Delta, also on 12 December 1996, by I. Davidson (Brewster & Major 1998b). Subsequently, singles were recorded at Talana Farm, eastern Botswana, on 16 January 1999 (Brewster & Major 1999), the Kwando floodplain on 16 December 1998 (Brewster & Major 2000a), the Thamalakane River, in Maun, on 28 January 2001 (Brewster & Major 2002), whilst two were seen and heard at Qaaxhwa Lediba, near the site of the first record, on 27 January 2003 (Brewster & Major 2005). One was photographed in Maun in December 2005, by G. Reed and U. Franke (Fig. 1), and another sighted at Lake Ngami by R. Hearn (not accepted), whilst others were seen on 25 January 2005 at Ngotwane, south of Gaborone, by CAB (Brewster 2007a). Beesley & Irving (1976) recorded Corn Crakes as frequent in the Gaborone area in December–February, but the Ngotwane birds are the first recent records for the area.

Ludwig's Bustard *Neotis ludwigii* (6)

Four unsubstantiated records from the Nossob Valley, south-west Botswana, mentioned by Penry (1994). The first accepted records are one (consisting of three sightings) in the Nossob Valley in 1990, reported by J. J. Herhalt (Hunter 1990) and another of six birds at Polentswa Pan on the Botswana side of the valley, in KTP, on 14 April 1998, seen by CAB (Brewster & Major 2000a). Subsequent records are also all from the Nossob Valley or duneland in KTP: five in the valley on 13 December 2000, by E. Herrmann; singles near Rooiputs (2620B3) on 17 January 2001 (Brewster & Major 2002b) and in the same square, north of Two Rivers, on 23 February 2001 (E. Herrmann),

with a pair on the Botswana side of the Nossob Valley on 24 December 2002, by SJT and J. O. Stratford (Brewster & Major 2005).

Rock Pratincole *Glareola nuchalis* (3 away from Kasane Rapids)

Regularly reported at Kasane Rapids, on the Chobe River, where up to ten pairs breed, with occasional records elsewhere as follows. One on the Okavango River (1821B) on 4 October 1990, seen by J. L. Fenn (Hunter 1992); one at Xaxaba, Okavango Delta (1923C) on 3 October 1984, by M. Sanders (Hunter 1989); and, most extraordinarily, one photographed at Jwaneng Reticulation Ponds on 10 October 1992, by M. Soroczynski (Herremans *et al.* 1993).

Pectoral Sandpiper *Calidris melanotos* (8)

Three pre-1978 records listed by Penry (1994). Subsequent records, all of singles, are from Bokaa Dam on 29 December 1991 (Bishop 1993); Samedupi, on the Boteti River, on 27 December 1994, by M. Muller (Bishop & Brewster 1997); Mogobane Dam on 21 January 1999 (Tyler & Hester 1999), at which location Wilson (1981) had reported the species in December 1978 (included in Penry 1994); Lechwe Flats, in the Linyanti, on 7 November 2003, photographed by B. Roche; Bokaa Dam on 31 October 2004, by CAB (Brewster 2006). One on 13 March 2005 in the south-west Okavango Delta was not accepted.

Great Snipe *Gallinago media* (8)

One collected at Kwikamba, Chobe floodplain, on 20 March 1967 is retained in the Bulawayo Museum. Four other records from northern Botswana in 1985–89 mentioned by Penry (1994), only one of them (Kwando floodplain, 27 March 1985) substantiated. Subsequent records are as follows: one at Kasane Rapids on 26 November 1992 (Bishop & Brewster 1997); an immature photographed on the Thamalakane River in Maun on 11 January 1994 (Bishop 1995); one on the Boteti River (2023B1) on 10 January 1995; one at Shashe Dam on 22 and 24 September 1996 (Bishop & Brewster 1997); one also at Shashe Dam on 23 September–14 October 1997 (Lovett & Lovett 1998, Brewster & Major 1998b); and one at Zibalianja Camp, Linyanti, on 2 May 1997 (Brewster & Major 1998a).

Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica* (5)

Penry (1994) mentioned two older records (at Lake Ngami in January and October 1969, and an accepted record at Mogobane Dam on 9 October 1978; see Wilson 1981), as well as five records from Atlas field work in the 1980s. Only two of these appear to be substantiated: one seen on 22 October 1988 and again in November 1988 in the Gaborone area (Bushell & Bushell 1989). The third accepted record involved four birds at Sua Pan in December 1996, by D. Hoddinott (Brewster & Major 1998b), followed by two at Shashe Dam on 9–10 October 1999, by CAB and R. & V. Lovett (Brewster & Major 2001a), and one at Lake Ngami on 1 October 2001, by CAB (Brewster & Major 2003).

Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus* (15)

Nine substantiated records from Gaborone and Orapa in the 1980s given by Penry (1994); we count these as six, as some refer to the same bird on different dates. Subsequent records include: one at Tsholofelo sewage ponds, near Gaborone, on 20 October 1990, reported by D. Bishop *et al.* (Hunter 1992); one at Nata Sanctuary and another at Bokaa Dam on 3 and 7 November 1998 (SJT *et al.*), with the Bokaa Dam bird still present on 28 November; one at Nokaneng on 15 September 2001 (SJT); one at Lake Ngami on 1 October 2001 (CAB); two at Bokaa Dam on 11 August 2003 (SJT); one also there on 10 and 31 October 2004 (CAB); one at Lake Ngami on 14 September 2004 (R. Hawker); and one also there on 4 September 2005 (M. Muller).

Spotted Redshank *Tringa erythropus* (4)

First accepted record: one, seen 3–4 km west of Serondella on the Chobe waterfront, on 1 November 1987, by R. Coomber (1724D: Penry 1994). Subsequent records: one seen 2 km north-west of Xugana airstrip in the Okavango Delta on 22 January 1992 by A. Galsworthy (Herremans *et al.* 1993b); one at Gaborone Dam on 19 January 1991 by M. Herremans; and one at Magwexana Pools, Moremi Game Reserve, on 24 November 1993 by RDR (Bishop 1995). A claim on 12 December 1995 in 1923D was not accepted (Bishop & Brewster 1997) and a recent record on the Limpopo River was also rejected.

Terek Sandpiper *Xenus cinereus* (9)

Four records mentioned by Penry (1994), all from northern Botswana, of which only two were substantiated (one in 1725C in September 1988 and one at Lake Ngami on 10 October 1970). Singles were recorded near Gaborone on 31 March 1989 by A. Kerton, at Nata Delta on 25 July 1989 by T. Liversedge (Hunter 1989), and at Gaborone Dam on 28 December 1990 by WDB (Hunter 1992). More recently, singles were seen at Kasane sewage ponds on 2 March 1998 by RDR (Brewster & Major 1999), in Maun on 22 January 2001 by M. Muller (Muller 2001, Brewster & Major 2003), at Bokaa Dam on 14 November–5 December 2004 by CAB (Brewster 2006), and at Shashe Dam on 24 May 2005 (P. D'Arcy).

Red (Grey) Phalarope *Phalaropus fulicarius* (4)

First accepted record: one collected at a pan west of Kanye in March 1960 (Smithers 1964). Subsequent records: one at Tsholofelo sewage ponds, Gaborone, on 12–13 October 1991 (D. Bishop *et al.*); one at Jwaneng Slimes Dam on 10 December 1991, by M. Soroczynski (Herremans *et al.* 1993b); and one photographed at Nxai Pan on 21 January 2006, by N. Polenakis (Fig. 2).

Black-headed Gull *Larus ridibundus* (1)

The only accepted record, despite other claims, is one from the Chobe River on 10 April 1988 (Penry 1994; also mentioned in Hockey *et al.* 2005).

Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus* (11)

Following the nine records, at Lake Ngami, Nata Delta and Jwaneng, mentioned by Penry (1994), one of which was substantiated (a bird at Lake Ngami on 27 September 1970 seen by A. J. Tree), it has been reported in the Nata Delta on several occasions and, more recently, at Lake Ngami, where seen sporadically in 1970–89. A record at Jwaneng on 13 November 1991, by M. Soroczynski, was accepted as either *L. fuscus* or Kelp Gull *L. dominicanus*, though the latter seems most unlikely in Botswana. Records include the following: one at Kgale Siding near Gaborone on 27 November 1994 (Bishop & Brewster 1997); one at Nata Delta in August 1997 (Brewster & Major 1998b); an immature on the Chobe River at Kasane on 3 November 1998 and an adult on Sedudu Island, in the same square, on 6 December

1998 (Brewster & Major 1999); one at Nata Delta on 18 January 2000 and nine on 27 January 2002 (Brewster & Major 2003); an immature at Nata Delta on 4 January 2005 (Brewster 2006) and two immatures there on 23 July 2005 (R. Coomber); and four at Lake Ngami on 29 August 2006 (CAB). Records of an adult photographed at Zibadianja Lagoon, Linyanti, on 10 December 2006 (B. Rode; Fig. 4) and of two at Lake Ngami on 10 January 2007 (D. Rollinson) are still under consideration.

Schalow's Turaco (Lourie) *Tauraco schalowi* (2)

First accepted record: one at Savuti, Chobe National Park, on 21 December 1988 (B. & D. Bushell *in* Hunter 1989; mentioned in Penry 1994). Only one record since: one in Kasane Forest Reserve on 17 January 1999, by M. Muller (Brewster & Major 2000a).

Ross's Turaco (Lourie) *Musophaga rossae* (1)

The only record is a specimen from near Ikoga, in the north-west Okavango Delta, on 7 October 1974 (Penry 1994). I. Bampton *in* Irwin (1984) claims to have heard the species at Ikoga and believed there to be a population there, but this is considered unlikely. A sight record from Moremi Game Reserve, on 14 August 1990, was not accepted and another, near Ikoga in winter 2003, by B. Pryce, lacks a description. A record at Kasane on 28 October 2000 is pending.

Thick-billed Cuckoo *Pachycoccyx audeberti* (11)

Three records mentioned by Penry (1994): one from the Kwai River (1923B) on 16 July 1969 (specimen) and two from 2229A on 23 May 1986 and 15 March 1987 (see Bushell & Bushell 1988). Subsequent records: two in the Linyanti on 3 October 1991, by A. Reed (Herremans *et al.* 1993b); one at Shakawe on 6 October 1993 (N. D. Hunter); one at Santandibe on 24 October 1995, by M. Herremans (Bishop & Brewster 1997); one at King's Pool Camp in the Linyanti on 6 December 1996 (B. Rode); two at Mombo (1922B) on 7 December 1996, by H. Oake (Brewster & Major 1998a); one at Shakawe on 18 September 1997, by D. Pritchard (Brewster & Major 1998b); one at Xigera Camp on 21 November 1998 (AWH *et al. in* Brewster & Major 1999) and 11 November 2001 (K. Newman *in* Brewster 2006).

Emerald Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx cupreus* (regularly reported in Kasane/Kazungula area)

Five records in the Kasane area mentioned by Penry (1994). One reported at Maun on 4 January and 11 January 1994 (probably the same bird) by M. Muller and CAB (Bishop & Brewster 1997). Otherwise all records are from the Kasane/Kazungula areas and the Zimbabwe border south of Kazungula, including singles on 3 January 1997 (D. Hoddinott and E. Forsyth) and in the Leshuma Valley in December 1999 (SJT).

African Grass Owl *Tyto capensis* (4)

Two records accepted by Penry (1994): a specimen taken at the Ngotwane grasslands, Gaborone, in 1971, by K. Ullberg, and a sight record from the same site in March or April 1978, by R. White (Hunter 1989a). Subsequent records: two at Gaborone Dam on 27 July 1998 (Borello & Borello 1998) and one 12 km from Francistown on 11 October 2000, by N. Bousfield (Brewster & Major 2002a).

Böhm's Spinetail *Neafrapus boehmi* (3)

Five records in 1985–89 given by Penry (1994), but supporting details were available for only one, near Shakawe (1821B) on 24 March 1985, by N. D. Hunter and D. Aldiss. The second and third accepted records were of one with other swifts at Daoga, on the Boteti River south-east of Maun, on 10 January 1995, by R. Bjijsma and B. van den Brink (Brewster & Major 1998b) and one 30 km east of Beetsha, northern Botswana, on 27 August 2000, by CAB (Brewster & Major 2001b).

Madagascar Bee-eater *Merops superciliosus* (3)

Two records, from the Kasane area in March 1974 (unsubstantiated and no details available) and in January 1984, mentioned by Penry (1994). Flocks were seen in the same area on 22 November 1992, by RDR, and on 28 December 1992, by M. S. Caulton (Bishop 1995).

Green-backed Honeybird (Slender-billed Honeyguide) *Prodotiscus zambesiae* (6)

Records by CAB during the 1980s from 1821C on 22 June 1986 (Bishop 1995) and 1821D on 24 October 1987 (Bushell 1988), were included in Penry (1994), who also mentions a third record, in 1825A on 2 November 1986, but as this lacks details it is not accepted here. Singles were subse-

quently recorded in the Tswapong Hills on 18 August 1990 (Hunter 1992), in the Linyanti on 10 March 1992 (Bishop & Brewster 1997), south of Serondella on 26 November 1992 (Herremans *et al.* 1993b), and at Shakawe Lodge, by the Okavango River, on 4 August 2004 (SJT *in* Brewster 2006).

Stark's Lark *Spizocorys starki* (20+)

Eight pre-1962 records listed by Smithers (1964), followed by a record from Tsabong (2622A) in December 1987 (Hunter 1991, Penry 1994) and two at Kgoro Pan on 11 November 1991 (Herremans *et al.* 1993b). The next was south of Makunda (2220C) on 16 August 1996 (Bishop & Brewster 1997). On 11 April 1998 CAB observed *c.*30 at Khiding Pan, Mabuasehube Game Reserve, 100 at Macatso Pan (2521B) and, on 13 April 1998, *c.*50 north of Bokspits and *c.*300 in the Molopo Valley (2621C). These were followed by five at a pan south of Lake Ngami (2022C) on 2 July 1998 (AWH *in* Brewster & Major 1999), two in the Molopo Valley (2621D) and two in the Nossob Valley (2620B) on 4 December 1998 (SJT *in* Brewster & Major 1999), five sightings of 1–2 birds in southern KTP (2620B/D) in late 1998/early 1999, (P. Funston and E. Forsyth), and a large influx into the Bobirwa area, eastern Botswana, in June–July 2003, with some remaining until December 2003. Three were also seen at Kazuma Pan, near Pandamatenga in north-east Botswana (Brewster 2003). These records were all well outside the usual range but were not mentioned by Hockey *et al.* (2005).

Black Saw-wing *Psalidoprocne (pristoptera) holomelas* (2)

A record of two at Shakawe, in the northern Okavango Delta, on 27 August 1987 (erroneously given in Penry (1994) as 30 August), by K. Newman was reviewed by the Records Subcommittee because of the availability of new data concerning the ranges of *P. (p.) holomelas* and of the western race, *reichenowi*, of Eastern Saw-wing *P. orientalis*. The latter occurs in western Zambia and could potentially do so in northern Botswana. The description of the Shakawe birds does not distinguish between the species and is therefore currently treated as an unidentified *Psalidoprocne*, and Black Saw-wing was removed from the Botswana list (Brewster & Major 2002a).

However, one at the confluence of the Motloutse and Limpopo on 1 July 2000 (CAB) subsequently became the first accepted record (Brewster & Major 2002b), with another on 3 October 2002 (J. van Zyl) at Dopotta in the Tuli Block of eastern Botswana (Brewster & Major 2005). Not all authorities agree with the recognition of two species of *Psalidoprocne* and Dowsett-Lemaire & Dowsett (2006) noted that such an arrangement is not supported by molecular evidence (see Sheldon *et al.* 2005). If only one species is recognised, then the 1987 record would become the first accepted record.

Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea* (3)

One at Puku Flats by the Chobe River in December 1984 accepted by Penry (1994) as the first record, but subsequently reassessed and considered unacceptable (Herremans *et al.* 1993b). Three accepted records: one seen at Lemone (Limone) Pan, south-west of Palapye, on 22 January 1989, by A. Kvist (Hunter 1992); one at Borotsi on 13 November 1993, by CAB and D. Bishop (Bishop 1995); and one photographed at Nata Lodge on 14 May 1996, by N. Ashby (Bishop & Brewster 1997).

Mountain Pipit *Anthus hoeschi* (3)

Four specimens were collected at Francistown on 14–22 October 1965 (Penry 1994). Four at Manamodi Pan, KTP, on 28–29 April 2001 by CAB constituted the first accepted sight record for Botswana, and were followed by *c.*6 at Masetleng Pan on 30 April 2001 (Brewster 2007a). Appears to migrate through north-east Botswana, from its wintering grounds to the north, to breeding grounds in the Drakensberg.

Whinchat *Saxicola rubetra* (2)

A single accepted record mentioned by Penry (1994): one seen at Xaxaba on the Boro River, in the Okavango Delta, on 27 March 1987, by RDR. The only accepted record since is of one photographed at Kasane Airport on 17 February 2005 (A. Cope *in* Brewster 2006).

Mountain (Chat) Wheatear *Oenanthe monticola* (5)

Since the five records mentioned by Penry (1994) from south-west Botswana, three of them substantiated, there have been just two more: a female in

the Molopo Valley 80 km west of Bokspits (E. Herreman *in* Brewster & Major 2002a), and two in the Nossob Valley at Struizendam, north of Bokspits, on 27 August 2001 (SJT & L. Tyler *in* Brewster & Major 2003).

River Warbler *Locustella fluviatilis* (10)

The three records presented by Penry (1994) were of birds seen and heard at the Tati River, Francistown, in March–April 1986 (counted as two records by Penry but as one by us) and in March 1989. Subsequent records are as follows: one at the Ngotwane River south of Gaborone on 15 March 1993 (Abernethy & Herremans 1994); 21 in Kasane Forest Reserve on 4–6 March 1992 (Bishop & Brewster 1997); one trapped at Seleka Farm in the Tuli Block on 7 April 1996 (Bishop & Brewster 1997); one heard at Nata Lodge on 1–2 January 1997 (Brewster & Major 1998b); one seen in Kasane Forest Reserve on 27 December 1998 and another at a different location there on 3 January 1998 (Brewster & Major 1999); two at the Thamalakane River in Maun on 3–4 April 2000 (Brewster & Major 2005); and one ringed at Francistown on 28 January 2006 (N. Bousfield).

Croaking Cisticola *Cisticola natalensis* (3)

Five records mentioned by Penry (1994): one from Mpandamatenga in north-east Botswana (Smithers 1964), and four from Mapporo Pan in July–August and in October 1988 (1824B/1825A) by R. Crous (considered by us to represent a single record). The species was found to be rather plentiful in grasslands east of Nogatsaa (Nochatsaa), in Chobe National Park, on 6–7 March 1992 (Herremans & Herremans 1992).

Pale-crowned Cisticola *Cisticola cinnamomeus* (2)

Two in grassland at Xugana, in the Okavango Delta, on 5 January 2005, by RDR, was the first accepted sight record (Brewster 2007a). There is a specimen, collected in 1975 at the same locality, and two unsubstantiated sight and aural records, in April 1989 from 1823C/D (Penry 1994).

Rufous-bellied Tit *Parus rufiventris* (2)

The first record, noted in Penry (1994), was of singles seen 8 km and 12 km west of Shakawe (1821B) on 20 July 1986, by CAB (Herremans *et al.* 1993b). The same observer reported one 30 km west of Mohembo (1821A), close to the Namibia

border, on 29 December 1998 (Brewster & Major 1999).

Purple-banded Sunbird *Cinnyris bifasciatus*

Reported frequently from the Kasane/Kazungula area of north-east Botswana, but only one accepted record elsewhere, at the Okavango River near Nguma Lediba (1822C2), on 26 January 2003 (J. O. Stratford and SJT *in* Brewster & Major 2005).

Copper Sunbird *Cinnyris cupreus*

Frequently reported from the Serondella area, Chobe National Park. One seen at Kubu Lodge, Kasane, on 28 October 1991, by A. Anderson and C. Tindell (Herremans *et al.* 1993b), and regularly seen at Mowana Lodge, Kasane, since November 1993, by RDR.

Sousa's Shrike *Lanius souzae* (2 including specimen)

One at Tobera, north-east of Xakao (1822A), on 4 September 1991, by M. Snethlage, was the first accepted sight record for Botswana (Herremans *et al.* 1993b). *Baikiaea* woodland is present in the area and the species is fairly regularly reported slightly further west, towards Rundu in Namibia. One was collected at Serondella, Chobe National Park, in September 1967 (Irwin *et al.* 1969). A record of one at Savuti on 18 December 2003 is pending and two possible sightings, at Mombo on 20 and 30 November 1996, were not accepted.

Southern Boubou *Laniarius ferrugineus*

Now known to be widespread if sparsely distributed in south-east Botswana, where it occurs in thickets and riparian woodland in the Ngotwane catchment around Gaborone and along streams further south near Lobatse (2425A,B,D, 2525B).

Lesser Blue-eared Starling *Lamprotornis chloropterus* (4)

Penry (1994) reported five unsubstantiated records. Flocks of several dozen, including adults and immatures, seen around Kasane, Kazungula and Serondella between 20 February 1999 and April 1999, by RDR, were the first accepted sight records. One specimen also exists. Other accepted sight records were made at Kazuma Pan on 6 March 1999, by RDR (Randall 2000, Brewster & Major 2000) and at Chobe floodplain on 16 May 2000 (8–9 birds), by SJT (Brewster & Major 2001b).

Chestnut Weaver *Ploceus rubiginosus* (12)

Six records mentioned by Penry (1994): five from north-west Botswana in 1988, at Gumare in June–August, Nokaneng in August, and the Thamalakane Valley in Maun in January (all by CAB), and one from 1821B on 22 April 1990. These were the first for Botswana. Bishop & Brewster (1997) amended the squares for the Gumare and Nokaneng records, to 1922A and 1922C. The two Gumare records involved flocks of 500 and ten coming to drink. Further records involved two males at Mohembo in March 1995, singles in Maun in September–October 1995, and a male at Shakawe in October 1995 (M. Herremans), ten seen at a borehole between Gumare and Nxaunxau (1921B) in August 1996 by CAB (Bishop & Brewster 1997), three at Xakanaxa on 14–17 November 1999 by D. Bishop, and three breeding colonies noted at Tale Pan on 6 February 1999 by M. Muller.

Red-headed Quelea *Quelea erythrops* (4)

Penry (1994) considered this species a vagrant to Botswana with just one substantiated record, in 1825A, of an adult male seen on 6 April 1985 by D. Aspinwall (Skinner 1986). The second accepted record was of several flocks totalling 'hundreds' on Sedudu Island, in the Chobe River near Kasane, and other grasslands in north-east Chobe National Park on 24 March 1993 into April (Randall 1993, Abernethy & Herremans 1994). Two further records: small flocks on the Chobe floodplain in 1994–98 between February and April (RDR *in* Brewster & Major 1999) and in the Kwando area in January 1996 (Randall 1996a).

Locust Finch *Ortygospiza locustella* (2)

A single record, of a specimen taken in 1923A in 1967, mentioned by Penry (1994). The only subsequent record is of a bird seen in the Shindi area of the Okavango Delta (the same locality as the specimen), in December 1991/January 1992, by N. D. Hunter and N. Burgess (Bishop 1995).

Cuckoo Finch (Parasitic Weaver) *Anomalospiza imberbis* (14)

Apart from a specimen taken at Kazuma Pan mentioned in Smithers *et al.* (1959), which may have been collected in neighbouring Zimbabwe, Penry (1994) noted just one record, in May 1986, involving several immatures north of Tamafupa

Pan (1926A), by B. Bushell and J. Balden (Herremans *et al.* 1993a). A chick in a nest of Tawny-flanked Prinia *Prinia subflava* by a lagoon of the Okavango River near Shakawe (1821B) was seen on 9 May 1991 by M. Herremans *et al.* (Hunter 1992). M. Herremans and D. Herremans-Tonnoeyr subsequently observed four full-grown Cuckoo Finches being fed by Desert Cisticolas *Cisticola aridulus* near Nochatsaa camp (1824B), on 7 March 1992 (Herremans *et al.* 1993b). More recently, RDR observed an adult male at Kasane on 6 January 1995 (Bishop & Brewster 1997), the fourth accepted record. Subsequent records are as follows: three males and two females at Nogatsaa on 5 December 1998 (Brewster & Major 1999); an adult male ringed at Selebi Phikwe (2127D4) on 24 November 1998; an adult male and adult female at Kazuma Pan on 7 February 1999 (Brewster & Major 2000a); a singing male 20 km south of Mohembo on the east bank of the Okavango River on 20 November 1999 (Brewster & Major 2001a); two recently fledged juveniles at Nogatsaa on 26 April 2000 (Brewster & Major 2001b); a male and 10–15 females at Kazuma Pan on 6 December 2000; a flock of 12 at Nxamaseri (1822C1) on 9–14 October 2002 (Brewster & Major 2005); a male at Sibuyu Forest Reserve (1825D) on 3 January 2005; a male between Gowa and Ngarange (1822C2) on 27 November 2005; a male and two females near Dungu (1825D1) on 29 November 2005 (Brewster 2006).

Other rarities

The above list does not include all those species for which there are fewer than ten accepted records and thus are included on the Botswana Category A Rarity List, viz. Great Bittern *Botaurus stellaris*, Northern Pintail *Anas acuta*, African Cuckoo Hawk *Aviceda cuculoides*, Palm-nut Vulture *Gypohierax angolensis*, African Goshawk *Accipiter tachiro*, Crowned Eagle *Stephanoaetus coronatus*, Sooty Falcon *Falco concolor*, Common Quail *Coturnix coturnix*, Baillon's Crake *Porzana pusillus*, Blue Crane *Anthropoides paradiseus*, White-bellied Bustard *Eupodotis senegalensis*, Burchell's Courser *Cursorius rufus*, Red Knot *Calidris canutus*, Temminck's Stint *C. temminckii*, Gull-billed Tern *Gelochelidon nilotica*, Brown-necked (Grey-headed) Parrot *Poicephalus robustus suahelicus*, European Nightjar *Caprimulgus europaeus*, Half-

collared Kingfisher *Alcedo semitorquata*, African Broadbill *Smithornis capensis*, Tree Pipit *Anthus trivialis*, Sickle-winged Chat *Cercomela sinuata*, Miombo Rock Thrush *Monticola angolensis*, Levaillant's Cisticola *Cisticola tinniens*, Cape Batis *Batis capensis*, Red-collared Widowbird *Euplectes ardens*, Black-eared Canary *Serinus mennelli* and Cape Bunting *Emberiza capensis*. Common Myna *Acridotheres tristis* has spread during the last two decades and is now frequent in south-east and east Botswana, particularly in Lobatse, Gaborone, along the South African border in the east, and Mahalapye (Brewster 1999, Tyler 2001c, and reports in *Babbler*).

Deletions

Long-toed Stint *Calidris subminuta*

The single record for Botswana, a bird at Lobatse on 11 November 1984, is no longer considered acceptable, and the species has been removed from the national list (Brewster & Major 2001a).

Cape Rock Thrush *Monticola rupestris*

A specimen reported in Roberts (1935) cannot be traced, which led to the species being removed from the Botswana list (Herremans *et al.* 1993b). The record originated from a visit to Matabeleland in 1870 by H. Exton, and the inference is that a specimen was procured. Some of Exton's small collection was discussed by Layard (1871), but he did not mention this species.

Dusky Indigobird *Vidua funerea*

Mentioned by Penry (1994) 'to encourage research into the matter' but now removed from the Botswana list as there are no substantiated records and its host, African Firefinch *Lagonosticta rubricata*, has not been recorded either.

Species accepted for Botswana in the new Roberts

There are several species that are currently not on the rarities list that were accepted for Botswana in the latest Roberts (Hockey *et al.* 2005). These include: Shelley's Francolin *Francolinus shelleyi*, which is reported to have a population in Chobe (pp. 66–67), but there are no known records; Blue Quail *Coturnix adansonii*, two plots mapped (p. 78), but no mention in the text of Botswana and this species was removed from the Botswana list in



Figure 1. Corn Crane / Râle des genêts *Crex crex*, Maun, December 2005 (G. Reed)

Figure 2. Grey (Red) Phalarope / Phalarope à bec large *Phalaropus fulicarius*, Nxai Pan, 21 January 2006 (N. Polenakis)

Figure 3. Male Red-headed Quelea / Travailleur à tête rouge *Quelea erythrops*, Linyanti, April 2005 (B. Rode)

Figure 4. Lesser Black-backed Gull / Goéland brun *Larus fuscus*, Zibadianja Lagoon, Linyanti, 10 December 2006 (B. Rode)

1992 (Borello 1992); Black Tern *Chlidonias niger*, a June 1970 sighting of five birds (p. 471); Long-tailed Pipit *Anthus longicaudatus*, claimed to occur in Moremi Game Reserve (p. 1108 and see Liversidge 1998); Northern Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe*, one plot mapped (p. 950), but no mention in the text; Isabelline Wheatear *O. isabellina*, a published claim (Hockey 1988) was subsequently rejected (Herremans 1997), but is shown on the species' map and mentioned in the text (p. 952), although this record, the only one from southern Africa, is admitted to be 'equivocal'. The Records Subcommittee welcomes supporting evidence for these species, but in its absence cannot admit them to the country list.

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^a *Stephanie J. Tyler, Yew Tree Cottage, Lone Lane, Penallt, Monmouthshire NP25 4AJ, UK. E-mail: steph_tyler2001@hotmail.com*

^b *Richard D. Randall, PO Box 21161, Boseja, Maun, Botswana. E-mail: rrsfarris@yahoo.fr*

^c *Chris A. Brewster, PO Box 26292, Gaborone, Botswana. E-mail: cbrewster@botsnet.bw*

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Appendix 1. Gazetteer of localities mentioned in the text.

Lettering and numbering of squares

A	B
C	D

A1	A2	B1	B2
A3	A4	B3	B4
C1	C2	D1	D2
C3	C4	D3	D4

Beetsha	18°45'S 22°57'E	1822D4
Bokaa Dam	24°26'S 26°01'E	2425B4/2426A3
Bokspits	26°53'S 20°41'E	2620D3
Borotsi	23°02'S 27°34'E	2327B1
Chanoga	20°10'S 23°48'E	2023B2
Dopotta, Tuli Block	22°05'S 29°00'E	2229A1
Francistown	21°10'S 27°30'E	2127B1
Gaborone	24°39'S 25°54'E	2425D2
Gaborone Dam	24°43'S 25°54'E	2425D2
Gumare	19°20'S 22°10'E	1922A3
Ikoga	18°51'S 22°18'E	1822C4
Jedibe	19°02'S 22°32'E	1922B1
Jwaneng slimes dam/ponds	24°32'S 24°41'E	2424D1
Jwaneng sewage ponds	24°35'S 24°42'E	2424D2
Kabulabula, Chobe floodplain	17°48'S 24°57'E	1724D4
Kanye	24°59'S 25°20'E	2425C4
Kasane	17°48'S 25°09'E	1725C3
Kasane Forest Reserve	17°55'S 25°10'E	1725C3
Katchikau	18°09'S 24°29'E	1824A2
Kavimba	18°04'S 24°35'E	1824B1
Kazuma Pan	18°22'S 25°30'E	1825A4/B3
Kazungula	17°48'S 25°16'E	1725C3
Kgale Hill	24°41'S 25°52'E	2425D2
Kgoro Pan	25°26'S 25°28'E	2525A4
Khutse Game Reserve	23°22'S 24°26'E	2324A4/C
Kings Camp, Linyanti	18°30'S 23°37'E	1823D1
Kopong Hills	24°22'S 25°50'E	2425B4
Kwando River	18°00'S 23°18'E	1823A2
Kweyane	26°04'S 22°15'E	2622A2
Kwikamaba	18°19'S 24°53'E	1824B4
Lemone Pan	22°40'S 27°04'E	2227D1
Lerala	22°47'S 27°45'E	2227D4
Lesoma (Leshuma) Valley	17°57'S 25°17'E	1725C4
Letsibogo Dam	21°52'S 27°48'E	2127D4
Lobatse	25°14'S 25°40'E	2525B1
Magwexhlana Pools	19°15'S 23°24'E	1923A4
Manamodi Pan	25°03'S 22°08'E	2522A1
Mannyelanong Hills	25°03'S 25°45'E	2525B2

Masetleng Pan	23°42'S 20°55'E	2320D2
Maun	19°58'S 23°26'E	1923C4
Mashatu Game Reserve	22°09'S 29°15'E	2229A1/2
Mmabarwa Pan	21°54'S 28°17'E	2128C4
Modipe Hill	24°39'S 26°13'E	2426D1
Mogobane Dam	24°58'S 25°41'E	2425D3
Mohembo	18°17'S 21°47'E	1821B4
Molepolole Gorge	24°26'S 25°31'E	2425B3
Mombo	19°13'S 22°47'E	1922B2
Moremi Game Reserve	19°18'S 23°15'E	1923A3/4,B1/2
Mpandamatenga	18°32'S 25°40'E	1825D1
Nata village	20°09'S 26°07'E	2026A1
Nata Delta	20°10'S 26°10'E	2026A3
Ngoma Bridge	17°55'S 24°43'E	1724D3
Ngotwane River, Broadhurst	24°37'S 25°58'E	2425D2
Ngotwane south of Gaborone	24°46'S 25°56'E	2425D4
Nogatsaa/Nchotsaa, Chobe NP	18°17'S 24°57'E	1824B4/1825A3
Ngwahla	19°28'S 26°07'E	1926A3
Nokaneng	19°42'S 22°12'E	1922C1
North Gate, Moremi GR	19°10'S 23°44'E	1923B1
Nossob Valley	from Bokspits north along South African border	
Ntimbale Dam	20°52'S 27°27'E	2027C4
Nxai Pan	19°54'S 24°46'E	1924D4
Nxamaseri	18°34'S 21°59'E	1822C1
Orapa	21°16'S 25°19'E	2125A4
Phakalane sewage ponds	24°35'S 25°59'E	2425D2
Pitsane	25°28'S 25°36'E	2525B3
Polentswa Pan, KTP	25°01'S 20°26'E	2520A2
Puku Flats, Chobe floodplain	17°47'S 25°03'E	1725C3
Qaaxhwa Lediba	19°03'S 22°23'E	1922A2
Ramatlabama	25°40'S 25°31'E	2525D1
Samedupi	20°07'S 23°30'E	2023B1
Santandibe	19°30'S 23°19'E	1923C2
Savuti, Chobe National Park	18°42'S 24°08'E	1824C1
Sefhare	23°01'S 27°31'E	2327B1
Selebi Phikwe	21°59'S 27°50'E	2127D4
Seleka Farm, Tuli Block	22°57'S 27°59'E	2227D3/4
Sefophe	22°13'S 27°57'E	2227B2
Selinda Spillway	18°34'S 23°20'E	1823C/D
Serondella, Chobe National Park	17°50'S 24°59'E	1724D4
Shakawe	18°22'S 21°50'E	1821B3
Shashe Dam	21°10'S 27°27'E	2127A4
Shindi	19°08'S 23°09'E	1923A1
Shoshong Hills	23°00'S 26°30'E	2326B1
Struizendam	26°38'S 20°38'E	2620D1
Sua Spit, Magkadikgadi Pans	20°35'S 26°09'E	2026C1
Sukses, Limpopo	22°25'S 28°57'E	2228B4
Sunday Pan, CKGR	21°20'S 23°41'E	2123B3
Swart Pan	24°15'S 20°01'E	2420A3
Talana marsh	22°15'S 28°59'E	2228B4
Talana Farms	22°14'S 29°01'E	2228B2/4
Thamalakane River, Maun	19°57'S 23°27'E	1923C4
Tlharaseele	25°31'S 25°38'E	2525D1
Tlokweg border post	24°42'S 26°05'E	2426C1
Tsholofelo sewage ponds	24°37'S 25°58'E	2425D2
Tsodilo Hills	18°45'S 21°45'E	1821D4
Tswapong Hills	22°40'S 27°30'E	2227C2/D1
Winteroord Dam	22°15'S 28°55'E	2228B4
Xaxaba	19°32'S 23°03'E	1923C1
Xigera	19°25'S 22°45'E	1922B4
Xugana	19°04'S 23°06'E	1923A1
Zibal(d)ianja, Linyanti	18°34'S 23°32'E	1823D1